

# BCTI Alumni NEWS

issue 1 | volume 19 | October 2018

## Upcoming Holiday Events

### Trick or Treat at the Parliament Buildings

Children under the age of 12 are invited to the Parliament Buildings for a spooky visit and festive treats on Wednesday, October 31st, 2018 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm.

### Celebrate the Season

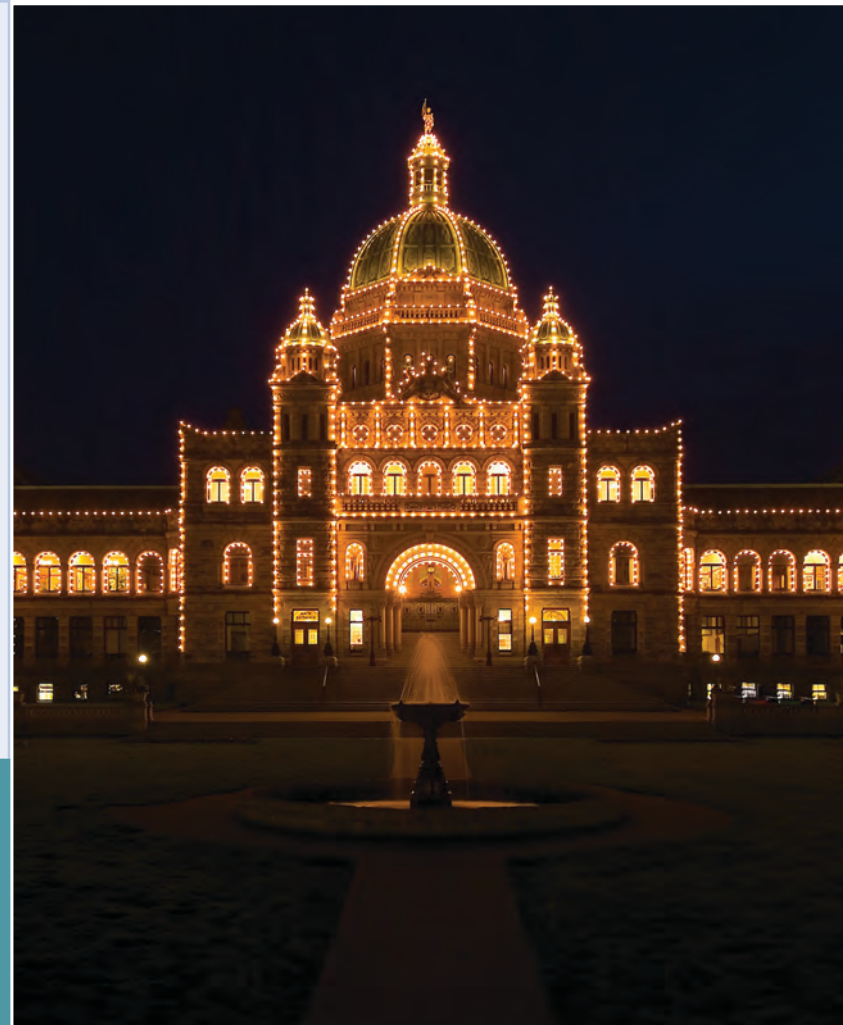
Bring your choir or band to perform at the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia on weekdays between December 3-21, 2018. Times are available from noon to 1:00 pm or from 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

### Christmas Lights Across Canada

Please join us to celebrate the lighting of the provincial Christmas tree and Parliament Buildings and to enjoy festive performances and seasonal treats on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

The Parliamentary Gift Shop is now offering table top hockey sticks as well as hockey pucks. The pucks are made by the same supplier for the NHL! Each one is only \$5.00 inclusive of tax. Remember to visit the Parliamentary Gift Shop on your next visit and bring a unique souvenir home with you.

## Gift Shop News



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## Governance & Beyond

In partnership with the Royal BC Museum, this elementary school program explores the different forms of governance, beginning with indigenous ways of knowing and being. The day-long program starts with a Learning Lab at the Royal BC Museum and finishes with an interactive guided tour and classroom session at the Parliament Buildings. Students will be able to experience the processes of governing through a diverse lens, across multiple institutions, including BC's Legislative Assembly.

The program is offered on Fridays, from October through March from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm.

To register, please visit the [Royal BC Museum's website](#).

Questions? Email [tours@leg.bc.ca](mailto:tours@leg.bc.ca).



## Student Vote: Use the local elections as a teachable moment

Educators throughout the province are invited to engage their students in the October 20 local elections through the free and non-partisan Student Vote program.

Student Vote enables educators to bring democracy alive in the classroom and empowers students to experience the voting process firsthand by casting ballots for the official candidates running for municipal council or electoral area director and school trustee.

Participating schools receive a variety of educational materials to teach local government, boards of education and the electoral process, and facilitate research into the issues and candidates. Ballots and ballot boxes are also provided for the coordination of Student Vote Day.

The program is targeted at grades 4 to 12 and materials are available in English and French.

**To register your class or entire school, visit [www.studentvote.ca](http://www.studentvote.ca) or call toll free, 1-866-488-8775.**



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## 20th Anniversary for the Parliamentary Players Program

This year marks the 20th anniversary of one of the most popular programs at the Legislative Assembly, the Parliamentary Players Program. Each summer, post-secondary students bring prominent personalities from British Columbia's past back to life for the enjoyment of our visitors. Dressed in period costumes, the Players deliver lively, historically accurate monologues during guided tours and interact with visitors on the front driveway of the Parliament Buildings.

Over the past 20 years, a number of different historical figures have been portrayed. Our six current figures include Her Majesty Queen Victoria; the famed architect of our fine buildings, Francis Mawson Rattenbury; BC's longest serving MLA, Thomas Uphill; BC gold miner, Nellie Cashman; building stonemason, Hamish MacKinnon; and BC's second Premier, Amor De Cosmos.

It takes a lot of work to keep the Players program running; from researching the history of the characters and writing scripts, to purchasing top hats, tiaras, and other period-appropriate clothing. We thank all of the staff who have made this program a success. And a very special thanks also goes to all of the wonderful students who have come to share their enthusiasm and talent with our visitors.

The six Parliamentary Players can be seen on tours between the May Long-Weekend and Labour Day. Mr. Uphill will also be roaming the halls of the Parliament Buildings throughout the year on Fridays until April 26, 2019.

### Did You Know?

The Heritage Branch in the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development, is seeking input on designating a Provincial Fossil to be added to the official Provincial Symbols of British Columbia.

Participate and [vote for your favourite](#) by November 23.



### Parliamentary Trivia

At the turn of the 20th century, women in British Columbia still did not have the right to vote. In April 1917, the new Liberal government amended the Provincial Elections Act to grant women who qualified as British subjects the right to vote in provincial elections and the right to be elected to the Legislative Assembly.

Q. How many female Members of the Legislative Assembly have there been since 1917?

Email your answer to [PEO@leg.bc.ca](mailto:PEO@leg.bc.ca) to win a prize pack from the gift shop.

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## Thinking-Outside-the-Box

For those of us who have attended the annual BC Teacher's Institute, we do not need to be convinced of its merit and value - we know from first hand experience the excellent professional learning opportunities it provides, simply by virtue of having attended it. However, sometimes our colleagues might need to be convinced. This is especially true if they do not teach courses that are directly tied to traditional Social Studies type topics such as governance, democracy, and citizenship. This type of thinking provides an opportunity for BCTI alumni to challenge their colleagues to "think outside-the-box." With the implementation of the re-designed K-12 curriculum, there are no more lists and pages of Prescribed Learning Outcomes dictating what needs to be covered. Instead, within each course and discipline there is now a focus on the Big Ideas and Learning Standards, as well as the Core Competencies – most of which are well served by any educator who takes part in the BCTI as a professional development opportunity.

This leads to a second way in which we might challenge our colleagues to think outside-the-box. Traditional teaching methods under the old curriculum often required teachers to spend a significant amount of time in direct instruction-usually with lecturing and textbook reading as the primary method of learning. Under this model, time spent away from the classroom for field trips to the Legislature might be perceived as more of a threat than an a learning opportunity. Under the newly re-designed K-12 curriculum, this should no longer be the case. Again, the former lists and pages of Prescribed Learning Outcomes are no longer! With a new emphasis upon Big Ideas and Learning Standards, a trip to the Legislature for any group of students to take part in the various educational programs is time well spent indeed. So, the next time your colleagues feel they cannot justify a trip to the Legislature for themselves and/or their students – challenge them!

*By Jonathan Boone, Bulkley Valley Christian School, BCTI Alumni and Education Steering Committee member*

Do you have a story your fellow  
BCTI Alumni might be interested in?

Email: [PEO@leg.bc.ca](mailto:PEO@leg.bc.ca)



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